

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 4, line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

In addition to the switch 7, the switching device 6 includes three path memories 27, 28 and 29 and three receiving circuits ~~32, 33 and 34~~ 30, 31 and 32. The header fields of cells coming in via connections 16, 20 and 26 are evaluated in the receiving circuits 30, 31 and 32.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 16, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

The nodes 5 and 6 contain in their tables only two repair messages of the first type ((4 2 0) and ~~(5 2 0)~~ (5 0 2)), whereas the nodes 7, 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the other closed sub-ring have only the repair message (4 2 0) in their tables. This entry, however, is sufficient for the nodes 4 and 7 to recognize on reception of the next repair message that they are no longer edge nodes of a closed sub-ring, so that they check their receive cable in accordance with rule 3.